

02 '00 MAY -4 ATO :47

March 11, 2000

Ms. Jane Henney, M.D., Commissioner  
Food and Drug Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville MD 20857

Dear Ms. Henney,

I understand your board is now considering the perceived problem of how to deal with testing for the hearing impaired. I'm quite sure you are aware that this question has come up before. To help you evaluate the merits of this plan, I would like to offer my views on the subject.

I am of the age where many of my friends are finding themselves in need of hearing aids. Several of them have recently purchased them through the local audiologists at great expense (one friend paid \$6000 for a pair of aids). This is OK if you have that kind of money, but many of us do not. If it were not for the option to purchase hearing equipment through the mail, and without the necessity to take a physical exam first, many of us would have to get by without such assistance. I can assure you that it is no fun asking people to continually repeat themselves. Before long you find a gulf opening up between yourself and those people who get tired of repeating what they say.

I have purchased hearing aids from both audiologist and mail order vendors. To be quite honest, I have been more happy with the mail-order variety. Good reputable vendors guarantee that you are happy with your purchase. If for some reason there is a problem with the hearing aid you purchased, they will either send you another to try, or if they can't help you, they will refund your money. And all of this for a lot less money.

It seems we are increasingly being controlled by one agency or another. I believe it is my right to purchase my hearing aids where I want to. I am tired of everyone trying to protect me from everything. I'm a big boy and can look out for myself. Please share my views with your board and urge them to allow us a little freedom to choose.

Sincerely,

Dale Snyder  
7349 Green Valley Road  
Placerville, California 95667

Q3N-0372

C 4280

Dear Mr. and Mrs Hovis,

I am including my original letter to the FDA. I have not sent this out to anyone. I figured you would know better who it should be sent to. I wish you the best of luck in this effort. I appreciate the service you are providing and would hate to see big brother stick his nose into your business. Please drop me a note when things are resolved. I am interested in the outcome of this.

Your's Truly

Dale Snyder

Dale Snyder  
7349 Green Valley Road  
Placerville, California 95667



Excel Hearing Solutions  
Mr. & Mrs Jim Hovis  
105 N. First St. P.O. Box 586  
DeKalb, IL 60115

MAR 17 2000

60115+0586 

---